Our Lady of the Black Hills

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Office hours: **Monday – Friday, 9am – 3pm**

Our Staff

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Bookkeeper:
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lorinda.collings@olbh.org

Maintenance Coordinator
Jim Wranek
jim.wranek@olbh.org

Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy:
Saturday, 5:00 pm;
Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Daily Liturgy:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm, with Reconciliation from 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Saturday, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Bulletin Announcements

Please email any announcements to bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following weekend bulletin.

Current Events

I will be away February 6-13 for a retreat at Santa Rita Abbey near Tucson, AZ. The Cistercian Sisters at the abbey provide simple accommodations for guests who would like time for prayer and reflection. Over the last several years, I have tried to get away for a week of quiet in order to recharge in preparation for Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 22. I will remember the people of OLBH in my prayer, and I ask for your prayers.

While I am away some carpenters from the parish have volunteered to install new flooring (bamboo) in my bedroom at the rectory. Because I have allergies, we removed the carpet last August. The cost of the materials for the new flooring comes to $1,030.00. Donations to help with the expense would be appreciated.

Fr. Don Glover will cover Masses in my absence. He is a retired Maryknoll priest and a native of Ipswich, SD. He served for many years in Asia and other foreign missions. I am sure that he will share some of his mission experience with you.

In this week's bulletin you will find a letter from Bishop Gruss, and I urge everyone to read it. Recent legislation threatens religious liberty in the U.S.A. Consequently, there will be far reaching effects on most Catholic institutions unless this legislation is changed. To better understand the issues you might visit www.usccb.org/conscience.

Finally, I am sad to announce that Betsy Van Asma will soon be taking another job. She has been such a friendly and welcoming presence to all who come to our parish. She is a hard working servant with great love for the Church, and the decision to move into a different job was not easy for her. She has been working at the parish for almost four years, and we will miss her. I am especially grateful for all that she has done since I have arrived.

Please keep Betsy in prayer as she makes this transition the week of February 13. Everyone is invited, on Sunday, February 19th, to coffee and rolls following the 9 a.m. Mass to show appretiation for her as a staff member of OLBH and to give her encouragement on her new endevour.

In Christ, Fr. Steve

Knights of Columbus Corporate Communion

The Knights of Columbus will have Corporate Communion on the third Sunday of every month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Knights families, please come and pray together on February 19th. The rosary following Mass will be dedicated for the repose of the soul of Lee Wentz.

OLBH Parish News

Spirituality of the Lector

Lectors at OLBH, please mark your calendars. There will be a Spirituality of the Lector Seminar on Monday, March 5th at 6 p.m. at OLBH. Fr. Steve will lead a reflection on the ministry of proclaiming the Word of God.

That Man is You

We know it sounds too good to be true to meet with other Catholic men for a meal, fellowship, and a possible deeper understanding of our faith at no cost. WOW! ***That Man is You*** is held on Saturday mornings at the Cathedral. Join your fellow Catholic men for a free-will offering breakfast at 6:00 a.m., a presentation from 6:30 – 7:00 a.m., and table discussion from 7:00 – 7:30 if you wish to stay for that. This group is very good at start and stop times. You do not have to attend all the meetings in order to get good information.

Cook and They Will Come

We provide the menu and food; you provide the help! We are looking for parish individuals, families or groups to prepare and serve a meal for our Sunday evening Life Nights. We have a few more dates still available. Please see the sign-up sheet on the counter in the gathering area. We provide the menu and food and then you come in to prepare the meal, serve the meal and clean up after the meal. We need your help for our Life Night to continue to be successful! If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Thompson or Jenny Scherr.

Dried Palms Needed

Please bring your entire collection of dried palms from Palm Sunday last year. Fr. Steve will have a burning of the palms ceremony with the Sprouts and could use all the palms you have. Please place them in the basket in the gathering area by February 12th.

Gatherings of Grace – February 12 & 15

Gatherings of Grace, the OLBH all-ages faith formation program, will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 10:30 a.m. and will be repeated on Wednesday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m. We will continue learning about Our Call to Worship—Praying, Believing, and Living the Law of Christ. At the next gatherings, we will take a walk through the Mass and explore the "source and summit" of our faith in greater depth. Childcare for ages 5 and under will be provided at the Sunday Gathering. Dinner will be served at the Wednesday gathering. Please come and join us!

Shrove Tuesday Breakfast

Lent is just around the corner and our parish has a tradition of celebrating Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, in style. We will again offer a Shrovetide pancake breakfast in St. Joseph's Hall from on Tuesday February 21st from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. There will be many options for self-indulgence, such as topping off your pancakes with whipped cream and chocolate chips. Come before work or school and celebrate Shrove Tuesday with us. Bring on the pancakes!

Stations of the Cross with Sprouts

Sprouts will be leading Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 2nd at 6:00 pm. Children will be signing up for reading parts during Sprouts on February 19th.

Pray and Eat During Lent

Join your fellow parishioners February 24th – March 30th to pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. Then come down for the Fish Fry from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. If you or your group would like to lead Stations of the Cross, please sign up in the gathering area.

Knights of Columbus Hot Line

The Knights of Columbus was founded upon principles of CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, and PATRIOTISM. If you are a single parent, widowed, or elderly and feel alone or that you just need some extra help (household repairs, a ride to medical appointments, etc.), please call Armando, 432-294-1162 or John, 786-1207 at the Knights of Columbus Hot Line. They will arrange for the KC's to offer the needed assistance.

OLBH Finance Committee Meeting

January 18, 2012

Present: Fr Steve, Eric Scherr, Lorinda Collings, Bob Wentz, Henry Maicki, Don Thrall, Ken Wentz, and Leisa Nash

Minutes from October 2011 meeting were reviewed.

Stewardship Committee Update: Fr Steve reported that an ad-hoc group has been formed to work on a vision for a parish committee. Fr Steve, Garth Lightenberg, Don Thrall, Larry & Joyce Williamson, and Pat & Rene Suiter met last week and will meet again February 16th. For any immediate stewardship needs, please consult with Fr Steve.

By-Laws and Financial Management Plan were reviewed: It was moved and approved that the by-laws be adopted with one change in paragraph 2.b.: a former council member may be eligible for reappointment after one year out of service. Fr Steve will revise the document and email committee members. The Financial Management Policy will be amended with Lorinda's correct title and paragraph 1. will be changed to a maximum expenditure amount of $500 vs. $2000. Fr Steve will email to Lorinda for editing.

Ministry Fair Update: It was discussed and agreed that no new volunteers for our committee were needed at this time. The next ministry fair will be held in April.

Catholic Schools Sponsorship: Fr Steve explained how the assessment formula has changed, and why. Next fiscal year the assessment will be $722.90 per student which will be an increase for our parish. It was agreed that Lorinda budget for 45 students in the first draft of the next parish budget.

Second Quarter Results were reviewed. It was noted that July-Dec Fiscal Year 2011/2012 pledges increased by $6,119.69 over Fiscal Year 2010/2011 – not including $13,563.25 Springtime of New Possibilities Campaign payments.

Springtime of Possibilities Campaign status and next steps: Pledges increased by $35,224 after the in-pew fund drive. Total pledges to date are $139,700. It was agreed that the $15,047, which was collected last fiscal year and is currently being held, be applied to the principal of the loan. Contribution statements will be mailed this month to all who have pledged.

Next Meeting will be held April 25, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

OLBH Employment Opportunity

OLBH will be hiring a Parish Administrative Assistant. This position will provide administrative, secretarial, and clerical office support to the Pastor, staff and parish operations. Outside of general administrative support, the Parish Administrative Assistant will maintain Sacramental records, parish Communications, and maintenance of parish calendars / activities for the Pastor, staff and commissions. The Parish Administrative Assistant projects the parish vision and goals through their interaction with parishioners and in completing their duties. They appropriately relate to parishioners and show respect and compassion in delivering services.

- A pleasing caring person who enjoys working with people.
- An ability to work collaboratively with all parishioners, commissions and parish staff members.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and is prudent in managing and maintaining confidences
- Ability to compose correspondence and announcements; excellent grammar and vocabulary
- Secretarial experience: typing, word processing, computer programs (Word, Excel, Outlook), and office equipment experience
- Good organizational and planning skills, demonstrates the ability to set priorities and organize work effectively

This position will be Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in applying for this position, please bring your resume to the parish office or contact Fr. Steve Biegler at 787-5168.

National Black & Indian Mission Collection

Next Sunday, our parish will take up the annual Collection for Black and Indian Missions. Our financial contribution helps to support Catholic American Indian communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities. The collection also supports African American evangelization programs particularly in the south. Let us unite ourselves with love of Christ in supporting the Black and Indian Mission Collection with generous hearts. For more information, go to www.blackandindianmission.org. Please be generous.

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

February 6 – 12, 2012

Monday, February 6

Memorial of St. Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Readings: *First Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Psalms 132:6-10; Mark 6:53-56 (red)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the healing of Pattie Hawkins

7:00 pm: Cub Scout Bears Meeting

Tuesday, February 7

Readings: *First Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Psalms 84:3-5, 10-11; Mark 7:1-13 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: Fr. Don Glover's intentions

4:00 pm: OLBH Serves Dinner at the Cornerstone

4:30 pm: Praying the Bible

7:00 pm: Returning Catholics at Blessed Sacrament

7:00 pm: Boy Scout & Tiger Cub Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

Readings: *First Kings 10:1-10; Psalms 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mark 7:14-23 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: Fr. Don Glover's intentions

8:30 am – 8:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

7:00 – 8:00 pm: Reconciliation

Thursday, February 9

Readings: *First Kings 11:4-13; Psalms 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mark 7:24-30 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: Fr. Don Glover's intentions

9:00 am – 2:30 pm: Home School Group

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sky VBS!

Sky Vacation Bible School will be held at OLBH this summer for PreK-5th grade children on June 25th - June 29th in the mornings.

Friday, February 10

Memorial of St. Scholastica, virgin

Readings: *First Kings 11:29-32, 12:19; Psalms 81:10-15; Mark 7:31-37 (white)*

Saturday Morning, February 11

Readings: *First Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Psalms 106:6-7, 19-22; Mark 8:1-10 (green)*

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, February 11

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11; First Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45 (green)*

5:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For Jill Trautman

6:00 pm: Married Sweethearts Dinner and Dance at Ramkota in Rapid City, SD

Sunday, February 12

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11; First Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45 (green)*

9:00 am: Liturgy

Mass Intention: Masses for Life

10:00 am: Coffee Hour

10:15 am: Gatherings of Grace

6:00 pm: Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the parish Community OLBH

Fr. Don Glover, M.M. from Maryknoll will be cover Mass at OLBH February 7 – 12 while Fr. Steve is gone. Please share our OLBH hospitality with him and make him feel welcome.

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

February 11th & 12th, 2012

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:00 am	Sunday 6:00 pm
Bread Baker	Irene Daschel		
Altar Servers	Kimberly Schacher* Tyler Trautman Shayla Heid	Liam Schroeder* Joshua Weaver Aric Dyczek	Thomas Wilhelmi* Paige Gehlsen Isaac Gehlsen
Precious Body	**Joe Deaver** Ken Van Asma	**Marty Quinn** Christine Didriksen	**Diane Clarke** Sharon Long
Precious Blood	Greg Sass Nancy Sass Jan Schurman	Bernadette Usera John Usera Jean Schubauer	Lorinda Collings Denise McCormick Jim McCormick
Lectors	Carrie Baker Kathy Van Asma	Christian Weaver Pamela Weaver	Cathleen Denekamp Michelle Bucholz
Sacristans	Joe Schacher Linda Schacher	Brenda Jacobs Marc Jacobs	The Blauvelt Family
Greeters	Bob Wentz Pam Wentz	Joan Wilson Robert Dyczek	Ken Wentz Becky Wentz
Choir	OLBH Family Choir	Regina's Minstrels	Covenant Band

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Paul Brentrup - Cindy Striebel's brother
Joe Creek
Christy Elkins
Reggie Gingras
Lois Moller – Jean Schbauer's mother
Flo Neely
William Schroeder – Richard & Robert Schroeder's father

Repose of the Soul

Ron Dosch – Danni Dosch's father
David Peirsol
Lee Wentz – Ken & Bob Wentz's brother

The Collection Basket

January 28 & 29, 2012

Loose	$ 3435.25
Envelopes	1455.50
Votive	22.55
Student	226.63
Mass Intentions	30.00
Springtime of New Possibilities	75.00
Other	180.00
Total	$ 5422.93

Do something for somebody every day for which you do not get paid.

~ Albert Schweitzer

Rapid City Diocese News

Are you a divorced Catholic or know someone who is?

Have you ever wondered what a church annulment is; if a divorced non-Catholic needs to get an annulment before marrying a Catholic; if you have to wait for an annulment before getting remarried; what if I am already remarried; and does getting an annulment mean that my children are illegitimate? All these questions will be answered at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012.** Join Fr. Leo Hausmann and Fr. Dan Juelfs for an informational meeting on Catholic annulments at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Ft. Pierre, SD. There is no charge to attend. **To register, call St. John's at 605-223-2176.** For more information, contact Jill, Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541 or jslegner@diorc.org.

Tour Terra Sancta

The director of *Terra Sancta*, Reeny Wilson, will also lead a tour of the construction project on Saturday, February 11. The tour, which is limited to 20 people, will begin at 1 p.m. at the chapel entrance. Reservations for the tour should be made by Wednesday, February 8. To make a reservation, please call Dottie at the chancery office at 343.3541.

Cursillo Ultreya

Ultreya will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Diane Ange at 721-3065.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

The next Christian Family Planning Seminar will be offered by the Natural Family Planning Ministry on **Saturday, February 18, 9:00 a.m. - Noon at Sacred Heart in Philip.** ***This seminar is a requirement for engaged couples getting married in the Diocese of Rapid City.*** Married couples, or anyone who wants to learn more about Natural Family Planning, are encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register, call Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Catholic Schools Raffle

The Rapid City Catholic School System and Catholic United Financial are having a raffle to raise funds for the Catholic School System. Raffle tickets are $5.00 each; 100% of the ticket sales will be donated to the Rapid City Catholic School System, and all prizes are donated from Catholic United Financial. Tickets will be sold from January 13 – February 24, 2012. See the flier on our webpage for more details and contact information.

Prelude to Lent

This workshop will give us some time to find help by way of Scripture, reading, and discussion to deepen commitment to Christ while we travel in faith along the Lenten journey. Join me on February 25 from 9:30-11:30 am for this workshop. Preregistration is necessary with Sister Marmion Howe 343-8011, Srmarmion@knology.net. $10.00 offering includes refreshments.

Annual Diocesan Men's Retreat

Men, mark your calendars for March 9-10, 2012! Join Fr. Brian Lane at *Terra Sancta* Retreat Center as he directs this year's retreat, ***"The Women in Your Life: What They Would Like to Tell You but Don't"***. Registration Fee: $85.00 Registration Deadline: **Friday, March 2, 2012. F**or more information, contact Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Day of Recollection

All women are invited to attend a Day of Recollection directed by Fr. Peter Kovarik. It will be held at the Terra Sancta retreat center on Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of Americas, Court St. Rita #916. No charge to attend, but free will offerings will be accepted. Pre-registration requested. Contact Kristine Engelhardt at 484-9030 or chocolate@rushmore.com. Registration also at the door. Please bring a salad to share at the luncheon. Those interested in staying at Terra Sancta overnight can contact Reeny Wilson, the center director, at 716-0925 or stay@terrasancta.org.

"Coping with Life Alone"

A Beginning Experience® Level 1 Separated, Divorced & Widowed Support Group. Are you recently separated, divorced, or widowed? Are you struggling with the pain and loneliness? Healing can begin with the next ten-week session of the support group. The group starts at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15** at St. Therese the Little Flower Church in Rapid City. The group is non-denominational and open to all Christian men and women who are hurting due to separation, divorce or death of a spouse. Pre-registration is requested! Registration fee is $25.00; need-based scholarships available. For more information and to pre-register, call Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Cursillo Week-ends

Cursillo week-ends will be held at the Terra Sancta retreat center on April 19-22 for men and on May 3-6 for women. Those interested in learning more about Cursillo or attending a week-end should contact Diane Ange at 721-3065 or Ron Drimmel at 719-9846 as soon as possible.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

What is your New Year's resolution for your marriage? Restore Communication? Rekindle Romance? Renew Commitment? We are now taking reservations for couples and religious to attend the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend April 20-22, 2012 at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, SD**. For more information, contact Curt and Rochelle Lauret at 605-362-9145 to register or visit www.WWME.org.

Annual Diocesan Men's Retreat

Join Fr. Brian Lane at *Terra Sancta* Retreat Center **March 9-10, 2012** as he directs this year's men's retreat, ***"The Women in Your Life: What They Would Like to Tell You but Don't"***. Registration Fee: $85.00 Registration Deadline: **Friday, March 2, 2012.** For more information, contact Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Msgr. William O'Connell 2012 Scholarships

The Catholic Social Service Board of Directors established the Msgr. William O'Connell Scholarship in 2010. CSS will award several $500 scholarships this fall to undergraduate students from western South Dakota who are starting their third or fourth year at an accredited college or university. Applicants must be pursuing a degree in social work, religious education, or other human services area. They must demonstrate commitment to volunteering or assisting those in need, in addition to a commitment to follow Catholic social teachings. A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA is also required. Please request an application by contacting the CSS office at 605-348-6068 or you can down-load the application at www.catholicsocialservicesrapidcity.com. Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2012. The award will be announced at the 2012 Annual Meeting this fall.

CSS Seeks Nominations for 2012 Founder's Award

In 2010, the Catholic Social Service Board of Directors created the Founder's Award to honor individuals, organizations and communities who exemplify our founder, Msgr. William O'Connell. This Award is presented at the CSS Annual Meeting. SELECTION PROCESS: Candidates may be formally nominated only by CSS Board Members, who may also seek input from others, and present their candidate's name, along with a one-page statement outlining their candidate's qualifications to the Selection Committee. QUALIFICATIONS: The CSS Founder's Award honors an individual, organization or community who has dedicated time, talent, and resources to helping the poor, disenfranchised and suffering of western South Dakota and who exemplifies the spirit of our founder, Msgr. William O'Connell. PREVIOUS FOUNDER'S AWARD HONOREES: 2010 Msgr. William O'Connell, 2011 Archbishop Charles Chaput, 2012 to be decided. SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTION FOR THE 2012 HONOREE: If you would like to submit the name of a potential candidate to the CSS Board for their consideration, please outline a one-page listing of the candidate's qualifications and send to: David DiMaria, President; Catholic Social Services; 918 – Fifth Street; Rapid City, SD 57701 by March 1, 2012.

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

OFFICE OF BISHOP

January 25, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write to you concerning an alarming and serious matter that negatively impacts the Church in the United States directly, and that strikes at the fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith. The federal government, which claims to be "of, by, and for the people," has just dealt a heavy blow to almost a quarter of those people—the Catholic population—and to the millions more who are served by the Catholic faithful.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced last week that almost all employers, *including Catholic employers,* will be *forced* to offer their employees' health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be *forced* to include those "services" in the health policies they write. And almost all individuals will be *forced* to buy that coverage as a part of their policies.

In so ruling, the Administration has cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics our Nation's first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty. And as a result, unless the rule is overturned, we Catholics will be compelled either to violate our consciences, or to drop health coverage for our employees (and suffer the penalties for doing so). The Administration's sole concession was to give our institutions one year to comply.

We cannot—we will not—comply with this unjust law. People of faith cannot be made second class citizens. We are already joined by our brothers and sisters of all faiths and many others of good will in this important effort to regain our religious freedom. Our parents and grandparents did not come to these shores to help build America's cities and towns, its infrastructure and institutions, its enterprise and culture, only to have their posterity stripped of their God given rights. In generations past, the Church has always been able to count on the faithful to stand up and protect her sacred rights and duties. I hope and trust she can count on this generation of Catholics to do the same. Our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.

And therefore, I would ask of you two things. First, as a community of faith we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail, and religious liberty may be restored. Without God, we can do nothing; with God, nothing is impossible. Second, I would also recommend visiting www.usccb.org/conscience, to learn more about this severe assault on religious liberty, and how to contact Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the Administration's decision.

Sincerely in the peace of Christ,

+ Robert D. Gruss

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City

P.O. Box 678 • Rapid City, South Dakota • 57709-0678 • (605) 343-3541
Parcel: 606 Cathedral Drive • Rapid City, South Dakota • 57701-5498

Health & Human Services Mandate - A Letter to the People from Bishop Gruss

http://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Home/Documents/HSS%20Ruling%20Letter.pdf

New E-book Resources

The Communications Office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently launched a new line of e-books! Resources on catechesis, spirituality, Catholic social teaching, ecumenism, and cultural diversity are now available in e-book format. Visit amazon.com, sony.com or usccbpublishing.org or call (800)235-8722 for other available resources.

Catholic Social Services 2012 Ash Wednesday Appeal

You are part of Catholic Social Services, and together we are the hands of Christ working in our Diocese. When you give during this Lenten season, you touch people right here in our region and change lives. 41 percent of our clients can pay only a token fee for the counseling services needed by their family. Please remember CSS on Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, 2012 and prayerfully give so that CSS can continue to answer the call to help the poor and disheartened among us. Together, we can make a difference.

Packing Hope

The Rapid City Catholic School System is currently in the middle of its 5th annual ***Packing Hope*** fundraising campaign. The purpose this program is to answer Christ's call to help the poor and vulnerable by bringing hope to our hungry brothers and sisters. Feed Just One is a non-profit organization from Iowa that distributes highly nutritious food to starving children in the U.S.A. and around the world. With the money we raise through fundraising, we purchase meal ingredients in bulk from Feed Just One and then we combine the ingredients into individual packages that we ship to needy children. Our school and parishes have donated close to $15,000 annually, and we usually pack close to 140,000 meals (each STM/SES student is asked to donate $16). Please prayerfully consider donating to this cause. Donations, in care of *STM Packing Hope*, are being received on **February 25th and 26th at Our Lady of the Black Hills** or any time before or after that date in the STM Office, 300 Fairmont, RC, SD 57701. Also, we invite you to stop by the SES gym on March 30th and share in the process as we pack food. Thank you for your support and prayer.

Diocesan Social Justice Commission

"The word of the LORD came to me: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." ~**Jeremiah 1:4-5**

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission requests prayers for all unborn babies in danger of abortion. A sample prayer entitled **Spiritual Adoption Prayer** is as follows: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with love for you I ask your intercession to protect the life of unborn children. May they all come to birth healthy and be a source of joy to their parents. For those in danger because of abortion, I adopt them as my own and pray for them and their mothers."

For the Ride Home

By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. (Job 7:1,2)
- He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)
- I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. (1 Corinthians 9:19)
- He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. (Mark 1:31)

Reflection

- What is Jesus' mission?
- What is Paul's mission?
- What is your mission?
- How does this occur in the parish faith community?

This is crucial: we must be converted – and we must continue to be converted! We must let the Holy Spirit change our lives! We must respond to Jesus Christ. And we must be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who will continue to convert as we follow Christ. If our faith is alive, it will be aroused again and again as we mature as disciples.[1]

[1]Go and Make Disciples,A National Plan and Strategy for Evangelization in the United States, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, copyright 2002, paragragh 14.

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